

CLAIMS

- 1. A method of storing information relating to the transmission of messages by an entity over a given time period comprising the step of creating a signature comprising a plurality of parameters related to the transmission of messages over that time period wherein the parameters comprise at least one parameter related to the transmission of messages over a portion of the period and also related to the position of the portion in the period, to enable output data to be derived from the stored information.
- 2. A method as claimed in claim wherein the signature is created in one of a plurality of predetermined possible formats.
- 3. A method as claimed in claim 2 wherein the format of the signature comprises the length of the signature.
- 4. A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein said at least one parameter represents the number of events made in the portion of the time period as a proportion of the total number of events made in the whole time period.
- 5. A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein said at least one parameter represents the number of events of a predetermined type made in the whole time period as a proportion of the total number of events of the same type made in the whole time period.
- 6. A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the step of creating a signature further comprises the steps of: storing information about each of a number of events which occurred during the time period;

selecting attributes from this information; and converting the attributes into the said signature.

- 7. A method as claimed in claim/1 using an anomaly detector, wherein the stored information is provided as imput to the said anomaly detector in order to detect anomalies in the transmission of messages by the entity.
- 8. A method as claimed in claim 7 wherein the anomaly detector comprises a neural network.
- 9. The method of claim 1 further comprising the steps of: creating a second signature comprising a plurality of parameters related to the transmission of messages over a second period shorter than the first and more recent than the first; updating the first signature by a weighted averaging with the second signature; and deriving said output data using the signatures.
- 10. The method of claim 1 wherein the data deriving step is carried out using a predictive model, the method further comprising the steps of: monitoring the performance of the model; and automatically updating the model when the performance reaches a predetermined threshold.
- 11. The method of claim 1 wherein the data deriving step is carried out using a predictive model, and wherein the model is implemented using at least one instantiated object created using an object oriented programming language and the method further comprises the steps of: converting the object into a data structure;

storing the data structure; and recreating the object from the data structure.

- 12. A computer system for storing information relating to the transmission of messages by an entity over a given time period comprising: an input arranged to receive information about each of a number of events which occurred during the time period; a processor arranged to convert the information into a signature comprising a plurality of parameters related to the transmission of messages over the time period wherein the parameters comprise at least one parameter related to the transmission of messages over a portion of the period and also related to the position of the portion in the period, to enable output data to be derived from the stored information.
- 13. A method of deriving output data from information relating to the transmission of messages by an entity over time, comprising the steps of:
- (I) creating a first signature comprising a plurality of parameters related to the transmission of messages over a predetermined first time period;
- (ii) creating a second signature comprising a plurality of parameters related to the transmission of messages over a second period shorter than the first and more recent than the first;
- (iii) updating the first signature by a weighted averaging with the second signature;
- and (iv) deriving said output data using the signatures.
- 14. A method as claimed in claim 13 wherein the lengths of the first period and the second period are fixed for a particular instantiation of the method.



- 15. A method as claimed in claim 13 wherein said step (iii) of updating the first signature by a weighted averaging with the second signature further comprises the steps of:
- (I) determining a third signature comprising a plurality of parameters related to the transmission of messages over a third period shorter than the second and more recent than the second;

and (ii) updating the second signature by a weighted averaging with the

such that in use an up to-date comparison of the second signature with the first signature can be obtained.

- 16. A method as plaimed in claim 15 wherein the length of the third period is variable.
- 17. A method as claimed in claim 13 wherein said step (iii) of updating the first signature by a weighted averaging with the second signature further comprises the step of calculating an exponentially weighted moving average of the first and second signatures.
- 18. A method as claimed in claim 13 wherein the deriving step comprises the step of detecting anomalies in the transmission of messages in a telecommunications network.
- 19. A method as claimed in claim 13 wherein the step of comparing the second signature with the updated first signature comprises the use of a neural network.

Substance 20. The method of claim 13 wherein the data deriving step is carried out using a predictive model, the method further comprising the steps of:

SUP /

monitoring the performance of the model; and automatically updating the model when the performance reaches a predetermined threshold.

21. The method of claim 13 wherein the data deriving step is carried out using a predictive model, and wherein the model is implemented using at least one instantiated object created using an object oriented programming language and the method further comprises the steps of: converting the object into a data structure; storing the data structure; and recreating the object from the data structure.

22. A computer system for deriving output data from information relating to the transmission of messages by an entity over time, the system comprising:

an input arranged to receive information about the transmission of messages by the entity;

a processor arranged to create a first signature comprising a plurality of parameters related to the transmission of messages over a predetermined first time period and to create a second signature comprising a plurality of parameters related to the transmission of messages over a second period shorter than the first and more recent than the first;

a processor arranged to calculate a weighted averaging of the first and second signatures to form an updated first signature;

and a processor arranged to derive said output data using said signatures.

